

ABSTRACT

A copyright-managed environment is provided in which encrypted content and a license for decrypting the content are handled separately. Each client registered in the environment uses content legitimately. After the content acquired by a client A of a user is stored into a client B of the same user, the client B may receive a new license for the same content from a license server. This allows the content to be shared between the clients A and B while the copyright of the content is protected. The inventive environment allows the user having acquired a license to use the corresponding content on a plurality of apparatuses in his or her possession while illegal content uses are forestalled.